

# The Crank Calls



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## **MEMBERSHIP \$25.00 US**

Contact Paul Denham at  
pedenham@comcast.net

### **NEXT MEETING**

**Saturday, May 18, 2024, at the  
Golden Gate Live Steamers clubhouse site in  
Tilden Park, Orinda, CA**

Gate opens at **9:00 am**  
Meeting starts at **10:00 am**

### **Upcoming Events**

- May 18: BAEM meeting at GGLS
- June 15: BAEM meeting at GGLS
- June 15 & 16: GGLS Spring Meet/Open House
- July 20: BAEM meeting at GGLS

See below for more details regarding events. Watch Crank Calls, BAEM emails and BAEM web page for updates. BAEM meetings are usually 3rd Saturday of the month except December.

### **MEETING NOTES**

The Bay Area Engine Modelers met at the Golden Gate Live Steamers clubhouse on April 20, 2024. 8 members were in attendance. The light attendance reflected a splitting of the club's membership between the GGLS meeting and the STEAM Discovery Festival in Fairfield which was scheduled for the same day.

### **NEW MEMBERS/VISITORS**

BAEM members are reminded that visitors are welcome at our club meetings, and we're always looking for new members.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

We skipped a treasurer's report at the last meeting.

2024 BAEM dues of \$25 are payable. Checks can be mailed to Deirdre Denham at 1937 Merchant St, Crockett, CA 94525. Make checks payable to "BAEM". Paul explained that checks may not be deposited right away, so members should patiently wait for their checks to clear.

## TRANSITIONS

A memorial service celebrating the life of BAEM member Bob Hettinger has been scheduled for Saturday, May 25. It is being held at the California Automobile Museum, 2200 Front St, Sacramento, CA. The museum will open at 10 am and will be available all day for Bob's friends and family. There will be a slideshow & lunch at 12pm, with a presentation, dessert, and sharing of stories to follow. See the attached flyer.

Bob's son-in-law, Jim Lussier, is the event organizer. Phone 210-452-5853, email: [jim.lussier@gmail.com](mailto:jim.lussier@gmail.com). If you are unable to attend but have some stories that you would like to share, Jim would be happy to receive them. If you have any photos that you would like added into the slideshow, please send them to Jim via email. After these events, Jim hopes to have the slideshow shared via YouTube or some online site. There is also a brief graveside service planned. Contact Jim for further details.

## CLUB BADGES

If you are a member in need of a badge, contact Mike Rehmus ([editor@modelenginebuilder.com](mailto:editor@modelenginebuilder.com)) who has offered to produce them.

## SHOWS AND EVENTS

Engine shows and similar events provide an opportunity for BAEM members to display their craftsmanship to an appreciative audience. They also serve to publicize our club's existence to potential future members, helping build our membership.

BAEM encourages all its members to participate in shows. Your help is needed to populate our display tables. You don't need an impressive collection of model engines to display. In fact, you can help without anything at all to display, as we always need people to provide coverage. It's a lot of fun interacting with members of the public, explaining what the engine model building process is all about.

### -STEAM Discovery Festival

Makerspace's 2024 STEAM Discovery Festival was held Saturday, April 20th, at the Solano Community College in Fairfield. [Note: "STEAM," as used here, is not referring to the product of boiling water. It stands for "Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Mathematics."]

Accompanied by a throbbing rock music background, BAEM members enjoyed a beautiful spring day showing model engines to a crowd composed largely of families with younger kids. We had a comfortable outside booth and were able to demonstrate running engines whenever we desired. There was a lot of causal interest from the crowd, but not the kind of deep appreciation that we experience when showing to a more mechanically sophisticated audience, such as GGLS members or Good Guys gearheads.

Paul Denham described his experience: "Great to see so many young families. But interest in model engines? Thank goodness I have the water wheel. Blown V8 2 years' work 10k+\$ value, yea yea. Waterwheel 20\$ 1 day work, winner, winner, water winner. Oh well, I think we might have found a new member or 2? Just hoping."

BAEM members attending were Steve Hazelton, Paul Denham, George Spain, Chuck Klor and Wes Wagnon. Steve Hazelton did a nice job coordinating.

We tried to capture the flavor of the event in a short video, available on the club's YouTube channel: [https://youtu.be/y9rRhsRVIw0?si=p\\_g40kJilRZDL04V](https://youtu.be/y9rRhsRVIw0?si=p_g40kJilRZDL04V)



BAEM at the STEAM Discovery Festival

### -GGLS Spring Meet and Open House

GGLS will have its Spring Meet and Open House on Saturday, June 15 and Sunday, June 16. We will be displaying our engines at this event.

## FIRST POPS

No first pops at last month's meeting.

## BITS AND PIECES

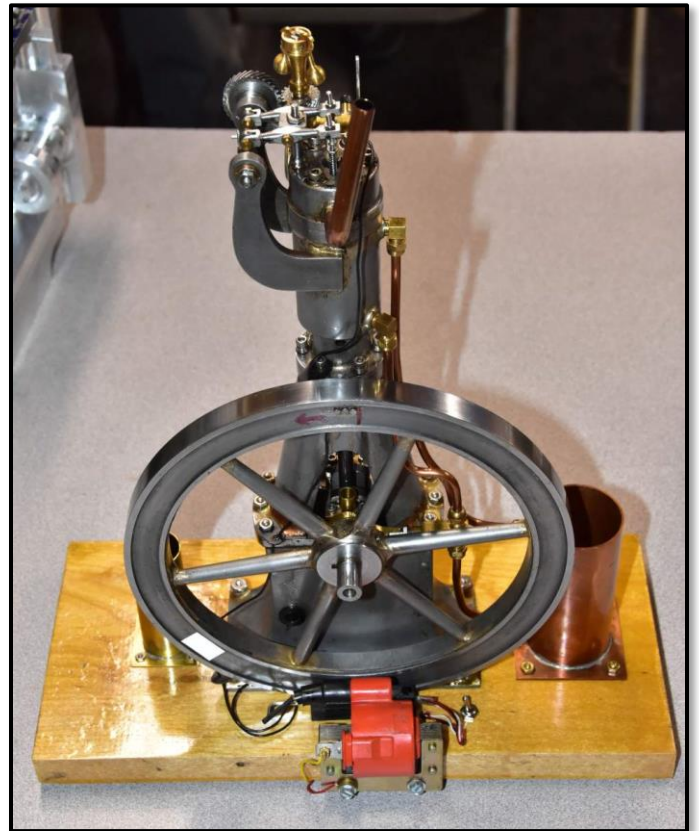
Charlie Reiter brought in an impressive Steam Donkey project. It featured an operating boiler driving a Stuart vertical 10 steam engine which powered a function winch. Charlie noted that Steam Donkeys were used as late as the 1920s to pull logs and drive jack hammers. Donkeys were mounted on sleds and could drag themselves to the operating locations.



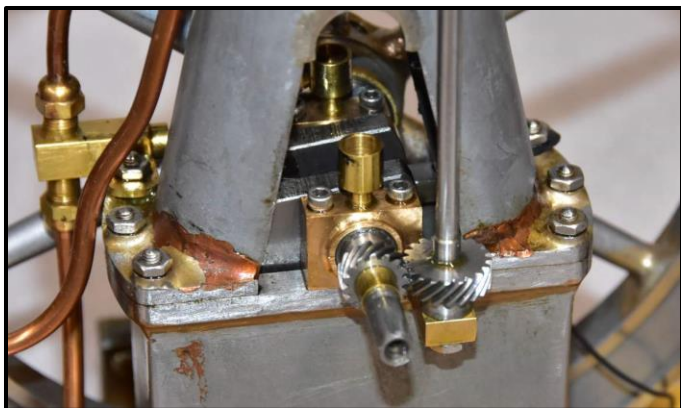
*Charlie's Steam Donkey*



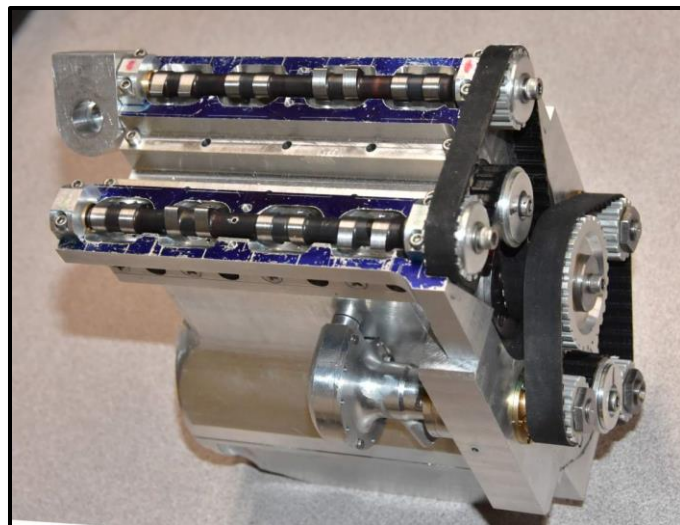
Peter Lawrence brought in several engines he is preparing to show at the GGLS open house. Peter showed his Hansen vertical engine, describing how he reworked the ignition.



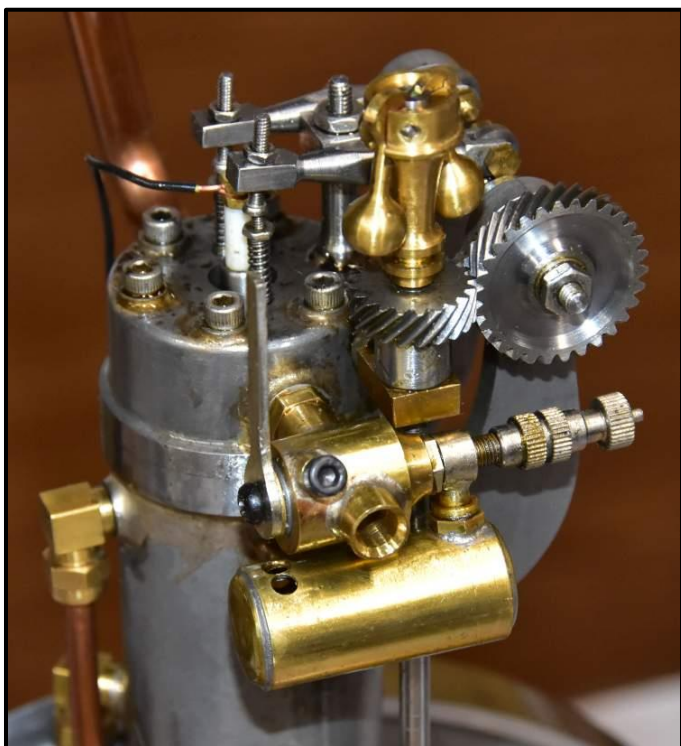
*Peter's Hansen Vertical*



*Lower portion of Hansen Vertical*

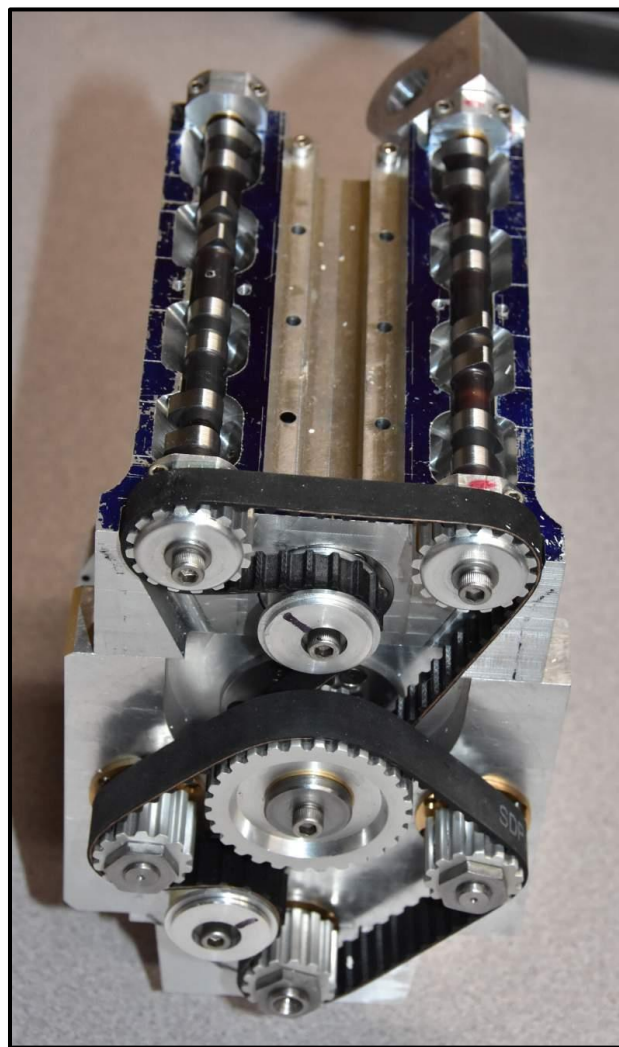


*Peter's Duesenberg 4 cylinder*

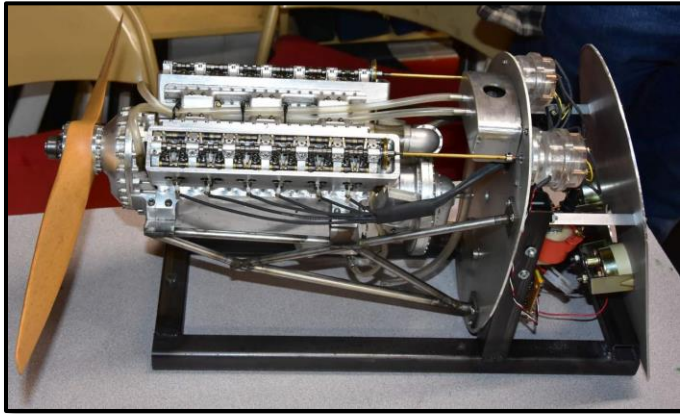


*Head of Hansen Vertical*

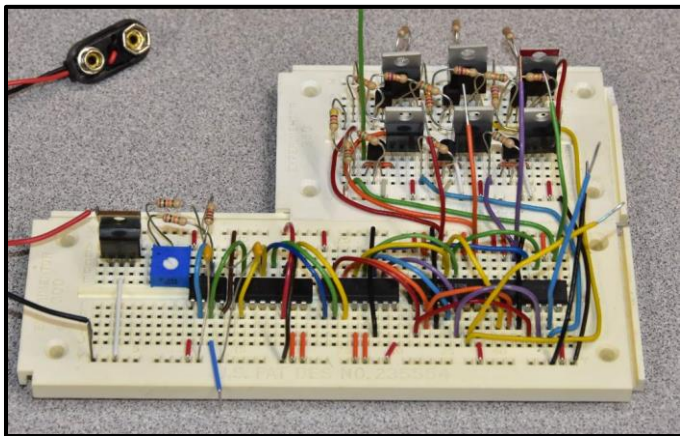
Peter's Duesenberg 4 cylinder has been an ongoing project. He had the water pump mounted and new drive belts operating to connect the crank to the overhead cam shafts.



Peter also showed his Merlin V12. He had mounted an instrument panel on the Merlin V12 engine stand. The panel base was welded to the engine mount after bending a cold rolled steel tube to provide the inclined panel mount.



*Peter's Merlin. New instrument panel on right.*

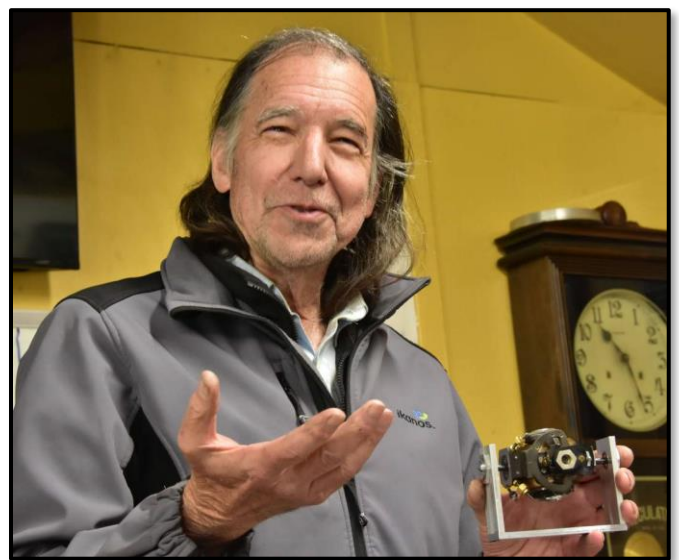


*Breadboard to develop circuitry to provide 400 Hz three-phase power*

Somehow Peter acquired a Sperry aircraft artificial horizon of uncertain vintage. He concluded that the instrument needed 400 Hz three phase electrical power. He was unable to find a suitable power supply and is undertaking development of a battery-operated shop-made supply. Peter reported that he had the digital portion working but was having difficulty with the analog components which provide the three-phase timing. Larry Zurbrick offered to help with the analog design.



*Peter discusses gyroscope design*



*Peter describes the delicate ball bearing support for his gyroscope*

Peter also described his very creative approach to creating ball bearing races for the gyroscope mount. He used slightly oversize ball bearings pressed into a drill rod cup spun on his lathe to make the races.

Since aircraft utilizing the Merlin engine most likely used vacuum to spin artificial horizon and directional gyros, it is not altogether clear why Peter is pursuing an electrically powered device in conjunction with his Merlin project. The technical depth and breadth of Peter's engineering prowess and machining skills, however, continue to amaze fellow club members.

## RAMBLINGS

Working on an interesting project? Got a great BAEM story? Share it with us here. Send us pics and project details, and your hard work will be shared with the entire club.

## FOR SALE

Owner of several Elmer Wall model engines seeks someone to get them in running condition and to improve their appearance. Amount of compensation to be negotiated. Contact Jeff Richards via email: [eatapeach78@yahoo.com](mailto:eatapeach78@yahoo.com)

Got something you'd like to sell? Your ad is free and will be seen by likely customers.

## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTION

Your contributions to this newsletter are appreciated: workshop reports, tech articles, reviews, historical pieces, whatever. You contribute, we'll figure out how to post it. Send your contributions to either or both of us. Thanks!

-Mike Byrne at [mgbyrne3@comcast.net](mailto:mgbyrne3@comcast.net)

-Wes Wagnon at [weswag@ix.netcom.com](mailto:weswag@ix.netcom.com)

Join us to celebrate the life of

# *Bob Hettinger*



**Saturday, May 25th, 2024**

*at the*

**California Automobile Museum**

2200 Front St, Sacramento, CA

Museum to open at 10am, slideshow & lunch at 12pm,  
presentation, dessert, & stories to follow immediately after.



Reserved parking along the front of the museum for classic cars. The  
museum will be available all day for Bob's friends and family.

A very special thanks to the California Auto Museum  
and the Sacramento Buick Club California Capitol  
Chapter for making this event possible.

